

10/065,564

Reply to Office Action of Dec. 21, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A fastener, comprising:

a spiral set of teeth; and

a selectively compliant core material running completely internally to said spiral set of teeth; and

coupling means for connecting said selectively compliant core material to said spiral set of teeth at both distal ends of said spiral set of teeth so that said fastener is laterally flexible along its length.

Claim 2 (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said coupling means is welding.

Claim 3 (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said coupling means is pinching.

Claim 4 (previously amended) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said selectively compliant core material comprises innermost wires grouped and bound with wires spirally wound in opposing directions.

Claim 5 (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said spiral set of teeth have a convex portion and a concave portion, wherein the convex portion is smaller than said concave portion.

Claim 6 (original) The spiral set of teeth of claim 5, wherein said convex portion of a lower layer of spiral teeth fits into said concave portion of an upper layer of spiral teeth.

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